



Runoff Roundup



June 2021

Clean Streets = Clean Creeks



City of Norman Contact Information

Stuart Shumate, CSI, CESI
Stormwater Compliance
Inspector
Office: 405-217-7777
Cell: 405-323-7155370-3295

Faith Haynes, CSI, CESI
Stormwater Compliance
Inspector
Office: 405-366-5453
Cell: 405-370-3295

Michele Loudonback, RPES, CFM
Stormwater Program
Specialist
Office: 405-366-5435
Cell: 405-473-0578

Carrie Evenson, Ph.D, PE, CFM
Stormwater Program
Manager
Office: 405-366-5455
Cell: 405 365-4928

pwstormwater@normanok.gov
<https://www.normanok.gov/your-government/departments/public-works-department/stormwater-division>

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality Contact Information

Stormwater Program
Office: 405-702-8100
<http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/stormwater/index.html>

Summer beckons to the outdoors. Here are some tips on how to reduce the impact on stormwater quality from your lawn:

- Raise your mower height to 3 inches for summer months. Taller grass grows deeper roots, shades and protects the soil, is less prone to disease, pests, and weeds, and captures more excess rainwater on the property.
- June is a good time to spread biological controls on your lawn or garden, such as beneficial nematodes to control Japanese beetle grubs. Avoid use of chemical pesticides and herbicides if possible; they damage beneficial insects and soil structures. If weed problems develop, spot treat specific weed patches rather than treating the entire lawn or garden.
- Leave a minimum of a 3 foot unmowed edge along streams, ponds, and drainage channels.
- Avoid overwatering your lawn and garden and adjust your sprinklers so that irrigation water does not fall on streets, sidewalks or driveways. Overwatering can increase plant disease, deplete the soil of nutrients and increase your water bill, while watering impervious surface can increase the number of pollutants in your runoff.
- Never dispose of grass clippings and other yard waste by dumping, blowing, or sweeping it into the street or storm drains. Yard waste adds excessive nutrients to streams and can deplete oxygen from the water causing harm to aquatic life and increasing the incidence of algal blooms.
- Consider reducing impervious surfaces and/or installing a rain garden. Both of these actions can reduce the amount of runoff from your property, thus reducing the amount of pollutants leaving your property.

2021 Artful Inlet Installation

On April 30 and May 3, 2021, six fantastic artworks, five new and one replacement piece, were added to the growing collection of public art that is collectively known as Artful Inlets. The program is a partnership between the Norman Arts Council, Public Arts Board, and City of Norman and has the goal of transforming city stormwater infrastructure into works of public art while educating the public about the harmful effects of pollutants on our waterways when they are washed into our stormwater system. In Norman, our stormwater system discharges directly into our creeks and streams without treatment. The artworks are shown below:



Here Be Monsters by
Ame Aziere



The Message is the Medium by
Chase Spivey



Drainage by
Laura Nelsen



Green and Clean by
Aurora Land



Cool in the Pool by
Ken and Sarah Hall



Happy Roots by Bonnie Amspacher
and Michael Wilson

Visit our Artful Inlets Story Map (<https://bit.ly/3q5Y4I7>) for more information on the artists, the program, and our stormwater system.

BUILDERS' CORNER

Did you know that the greatest water pollution threat from construction sites is sediment discharge from the site to the storm drains? Soil-disturbing activities, like clearing, excavation and grubbing, increase the exposure of soils to erosive forces such as wind, rain and snow melt. Soil stabilization can reduce the erosive impact of these forces. . . and it's a permit requirement. If earth disturbing activities stop and will not resume for more than **14 days**, bare soils must be stabilized. Stabilization measures must begin no later than the end of the working day and must be completed within **14 days**. If the site is in the Lake Thunderbird watershed, stabilization requirements are even more stringent. For those sites, the deadline for completing stabilization measures is **7 days**. While vegetation is a **GREAT** Best Management Practice (BMP) to use, it is not the only one available. Some other examples are:

Loose Mulch: Loose mulch usually consists of straw or wood chips and is generally the least expensive. However, straw requires tackifiers or crimping because it is light, and wood chips do not allow for good vegetative growth.

Erosion Control Blankets (ECBs): ECBs are usually made of woven material and can be synthetic, natural or a combination of the two. They are designed to cover the bare soil while seed germination and vegetative growth occurs. They need to be anchored according to design specifications.

Hydromulch: Hydromulch is generally a combination of water, fertilizer, seed, and mulch which is sprayed on the bare soil. The application density must match the manufacturer's specifications.

Remember: Seeding alone does **NOT** constitute temporary or permanent stabilization.



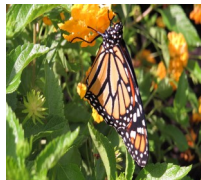
LETTING NATURE DO ITS JOB: RAIN GARDENS



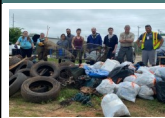
Rain gardens are beautiful landscape features that require less maintenance and fewer chemicals than lawns. They capture runoff from impervious areas such as roofs and driveways and allow it to seep slowly into the ground.

Rain gardens provide for the natural infiltration of rainwater into the soil. This helps to filter out pollutants including fertilizer, oils, bacteria,

pesticides, heavy metals, and other chemicals that are carried with the rainwater that flows across your lawn, rooftop, driveway and streets. Rain gardens also help to reduce peak storm flows, helping to prevent streambank erosion. These systems allow you to have an attractive landscape with less watering while providing habitat for wildlife such as hummingbirds, honeybees, and butterflies.



SPRING SUITE SUCCESS!



In the months of March, April and May, the Stormwater Division hosted the Spring Suite of Cleanup Events. One hundred fifty-nine (159) volunteers came together to remove over 2,300 pounds of trash and debris from the Canadian River and Lake Thunderbird watersheds that could have otherwise ended up in our waterways. These events allowed our volunteers to make a **HUGE** impact on our water quality and for our community!



Want to schedule a park, street right-of-way, or creek clean-up for your group? We provide gloves, bags, trash grabbers, snacks and water, as well as removal and disposal of collected trash. Call Michele, and she will help!



Don't Blow! Compost It!



Blowing grass clippings into the street may seem harmless, but grass carried by stormwater runoff into storm drains can cause pollution of our creeks and streams and contributes to flooding in our neighborhoods. You can help! Mulch your grass, blow the clippings back onto your lawn, or compost your yard waste (grass, leaves, twigs, and hedge clippings). By doing your part you can help prevent flooding caused by debris that blocks storm drains, reduce pollutants in our water (nitrogen, phosphorus, and yard chemicals that are in our yard waste), and minimize the growth of harmful algae levels in our lake and waterways. This is important to our community; the City of Norman passed an ordinance that can result in a fine of up to \$200 for those who dump, blow, sweep or place yard waste in our streets or storm drains (Ord. 0-1213-34, & Section 6000 Engineering Design Criteria).